

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 18-31, 33-42, and 44 are pending.

Claims 1, 10, 23, 31, 37, and 44 are amended.

Claims 7, 16, 17, 32, and 43 are cancelled.

In the Non-final Office Action mailed on September 8, 2005, the Examiner objected to the Abstract, and the claims 6-7, 16-17, 31-32, and 43-44, and rejected claims 1-5, 8-15, 18-30, and 33-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In this response, abstract, specification, and claims 1, 10, 23, 31, 37, and 44 are amended and claims 7, 16, 17, 32, and 43 are cancelled. For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicant submits that the present application, including each of pending claims 1-6, 8-15, 18-31, 33-42, and 44 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Abstract

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure for not being within the range of 50-150 words, as required by MPEP § 608.01(b). The Abstract has been hereby amended to bring it within the allowable range.

Amendments to the Specification

While the Examiner has not objected to the specification, the undersigned has hereby amended the "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)" section of the specification, starting from page 1 through page 3, and has added the Application Serial Numbers and/or Patent Numbers of the references which were missing from the original application. By this amendment the undersigned has not added any new matter to this application, rather provided required information regarding the references.

(Allowable Subject Matter) Objection to Claims 6-7, 16-17, 31-32, and 43-44

The Examiner objected to claims 6-7, 16-17, 31-32, and 43-44 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The undersigned has hereby amended the independent base claims 1, 10, 23 and 37 to add all the limitations of the objected dependent claims 6-7, 16-17, 31-32, and 43-44 and has cancelled claims 7, 16, 17, 32, and 43. Therefore, the amended independent base claims 1, 10, 23 and 37 are in condition for allowance and accordingly their dependent claims 6, 31, and 44, which include the features of their independent claims 1, 10, 23 and 37 are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 18-22

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-15, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Strecker et al. (US Pat. No. 4,777,595). As mentioned above, independent base claims 1 and 10 are amended to include all the limitations by which they will become allowable. Therefore, the amended independent claims 1 and 10 and their dependent claims 2-5, 8-9 and 18-22, which include the features of the independent claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 23-30 and 33-42

The Examiner rejected claims 23-30 and 33-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hallenstal et al. (US Pat. No. 6,914,911). As mentioned above, independent base claims 23 and 37 are amended to include all the limitations by which they will become allowable. Therefore, the amended independent claims 23 and 37 and their dependent claims 24-30, 33-36 and 38-42, which include the features of their independent claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6488.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 030048033US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: _____

11/18/05

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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